

**Notes on the voltinism of *Scythropia crataegella* (L.)  
(Lep.: Yponomeutidae)**

The standard textbooks (Meyrick, 1928 *A revised handbook of British Lepidoptera*; Emmet 1979 & 1988 *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*; Agassiz (1996, in Emmet (Ed.) *MBGBI* 3)) are unanimous in giving the time of year for the appearance of imagines of *Scythropia crataegella* (L.) as July.

This moth is a relative newcomer to Yorkshire, being first recorded in 1983 near Doncaster, since when both moths and larvae have been recorded with increasing frequency in the south of VC63 in the Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield districts. Moths have occurred between 13 June and 19 July with the majority of records being during the last week of June and the first week of July.

During 1995 *crataegella* appeared in my garden m.v. trap between 1 and 9 July and then was not seen again until I emptied the trap on the morning of 1 September and was surprised to find a single fresh moth. That same evening I made a field excursion to Anston Stones Wood, south-east of Rotherham where a further moth was attracted to m.v. light.

The summer of 1996 saw a similar pattern with moths present in my garden trap from the beginning of July until the latest, four on 14 July. I walk the short distance between my home and office daily during weekdays and about the third week of August (exact date not recorded) I noticed a small patch of webbing on a low trimmed *Cotoneaster* hedge bordering the pavement a few properties up from my own which looked reminiscent of that of *crataegella*. During the following week the amount of webbing had increased markedly until, by early September, a two-metre length of the hedge was entirely enveloped with further sporadic small patches elsewhere on the same hedge. On 4 September the first adult *crataegella* were noticed sitting among the webbing and on adjacent foliage and small numbers of apparently freshly emerged moths were casually noticed most subsequent mornings as I walked by. On 26 September a slightly more thorough inspection revealed over a dozen moths, two of which were retained as a voucher for what I now regarded as a very late date, and just in time, for heavy rain and a sudden drop in temperature resulted in no further moths being seen.

There can be little doubt that the substantial population on the *Cotoneaster* hedge was of a hitherto unrecorded second generation, that this should first occur at the very northern limit of the species distribution in Britain is all the more remarkable.— H.E. BEAUMONT, 37 Melton Green, West Malton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S63 6AA.

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